

MEDIA ADVISORY!

Attention: City Beat reporters
Neighborhood & Community reporters
Real-estate & Home Improvement reporters

Mayor Touts Progress from Intense Neighborhood Hazard Clean-up and Announces Opportunity for Neighborhoods Across Milwaukee to Get Free Bags and Attack Litter

Wednesday April 17, 2002 10:15 AM
Golda Meir School

City of Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) working with the Department of Public Works (DPW) and Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful (KGMB) are holding a news conference to update the City's Spring clean-up plan and identify resources for citizens to clean their neighborhoods. The results from the latest efforts to attack a potentially serious rat problem near 30th & Locust St. will be announced. Additional opportunities for citizens to clean their neighborhoods will be discussed. Students will then join the mayor and clean up a small section near their school to help kick-off the clean-up drive.

Recently a grass roots campaign near 30th & Locust help turn around a potentially serious rat problem. A record response by the neighbors helped clean up the area and improved the neighborhood. The grassroots effort needs to continue and the Mayor is calling upon everyone to take advantage of the free bags offered by KGMB. With everyone's help it can make a world of difference for the city.

Who: Mayor Norquist, DPW and DNS officials
Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful Program Director
Students from Golda Meir School

When: Wednesday morning, 10:15 AM April 17, 2002

Where: 1555 N. Martin Luther King Dr.

What: Launching Spring Clean-up Campaign

Questions: Call Todd Weiler, Department of Neighborhood Services, Public Information and Training Coordinator (414) 286-3214 or (414) 708-3360.



CITY OF MILWAUKEE
Department of Neighborhood Services
and Department of Public Works
announce

**NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATE &
SPRING CLEANUP PLAN!**

News conference Wednesday April 17, 2001 10:15 AM
Golda Meir School, 1555 N. Martin Luther King Dr.

The Mayor, with Department of Public Works and Department of Neighborhood Services, announces the results of recent cleanup campaign and the next steps for a cleaner city.

CONTACTS:

Neighborhood Services Environmental Supervisor, Dave Krey, 286-5799
Dept. of Public Works, Mike Engelbart, Resource Recov. Mgr. 286-2355
Mayor's Office, Steve Filmanowicz, 286-8531
Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful, Kristi Luzar, Program Mgr. 272-5462
Golda Meir School, Tom Hanley, Principal 212-3200
DPW Public Information, Cecilia Gilbert 286-3261
DNS Public Information, Todd Weiler 708-3360

City of Milwaukee officials presented an update on the sanitation efforts that are on going after a targeted attack on a potential rat problem. Preliminary results are in for the area and a record compliance rate was set. Nearly 75% of the residents in a 12 block area near 30th & Locust got out and cleaned up their yards and alleys. Normally the voluntary compliance rate is about 40% for that area. Orders have now been issued to the remaining problem properties. If they are not clean with a week, the City will do the work and put the bill on the tax roll.

Today it was also announced how the rest of Milwaukee can become part of the Great American Cleanup better known locally as Sack-It-To-Me Saturday. Neighborhoods can help themselves with FREE bags from Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful.

Mayor calls on everyone to begin Spring Cleaning

"It's time to get out and brighten our neighborhoods for Summer" said Mayor John O. Norquist. The mayor joined about 20 fourth graders from Golda Meir school in Milwaukee to pick up litter in a nearby neighborhood. "The City sanitation crews are back out sweeping the streets and DNS inspectors are going after problem properties, but the greatest impact to Milwaukee is when people get out and help themselves. They need to go after all the litter that creates an eye sore and then keep it clean for Summer", said Mayor Norquist. "Together we all can take pride in a clean

neighborhood we can call home," he added.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) Sanitation bureau has street sweeping operations under way through to October. Nine DPW skid loaders are picking up garbage full time. 17 special directed pickups are planned for this year. Neighborhood clean ups with dumpsters can be arranged by contacting individual aldermen.

To underscore the momentum needed the Mayor joined students from the Golda Meir School in doing a neighborhood clean up. The school was provided with FREE supplies from the Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful (KGMB) organization. The Mayor added, "Any neighborhood group can get the FREE bags just by calling. They can join an existing cleanup or do one just on their block."

Department of Neighborhood Services reminds people that garbage removal is an essential city service and failure to remove the garbage in a timely manner may result in adverse health conditions to the citizens of Milwaukee, as well as a potential increase in the rat population. People are reminded the source of the litter doesn't matter. If it is in your yard...it is your problem. DNS enforcement efforts will continue, but people are the key. DNS conducts 10,500 nuisance inspections resulting in 5,100 orders each year. Of those orders 2,000 property owners failed to take action and the City hired a crew to do the clean up and the cost was added to the tax bill.

Everyone urged the public to take advantage of the FREE bags from KGMB. Last year KGMB registered over 50,000 participants throughout greater Milwaukee. Help your neighborhood be a better place. Please do your part in keeping the city clean!

City Contact Numbers:

For problems with Garbage Collection or Carts call
the Department of Public Works Sanitation Bureau 286-8282

For problems with garbage debris in yards call
the Department of Neighborhood Services 286-2268

For FREE garbage bags for neighborhood clean ups call
Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful (KGMB) 272-5462

For more information or questions about this topic, call:
DNS Public Information Coordinator, Todd N. Weiler, 286-3214 or 708-3360